



MINUTES  
INFORMATICS EUROPE  
ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

*ECSS 2024 – SLIEMA - MALTA, 29 OCTOBER 2024*

The 2024 Annual General Assembly (AGA) of Informatics Europe (IE) was held in Sliema, Malta, on October 29, during the 20<sup>th</sup> ECSS – European Informatics Leaders Summit. Forty nine member institutions were represented at the meeting, through 41 representatives ([Appendix 1](#)).

IE President, Jean Marc Jézéquel, opened the meeting, welcomed all participants and presented the agenda. The meeting agenda consisted of the following topics:

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. New Members / Membership Summary 2023-2024
3. IE Activities
4. Finances
  - a. Financial Report and Auditor Review 2023 (Vote)
  - b. Intermediate Financial Report 2024 (first three quarters of 2024, for information)
  - c. Budget 2025, including membership fees review (Vote)
5. Board Elections (Vote)
6. Any Other Business

## **2. New Members / Membership Summary Oct. 2023 - Oct. 2024**

The first report of the AGA 2024 regarded the list of new members that joined IE during the period November 2023 to October 2024, listed below:

### **Academic**

1. Liverpool John Moores University, School of Computer & Science (UK)
2. Ovidius University of Constanza, Dept of Mathematics & Informatics (Romania)
3. Umeå University, Dept of Computer Science (Sweden)
4. Kristianstad University, Dept of Computer Science (Sweden)
5. University of Málaga, Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingeniería Informática (Spain)
6. University of Torino, Dipartimento di Informatica (Italy)

### **Federated**

7. Johannes Kepler University Linz, Dept Computer Science - Federated (Austria)
8. Johannes Kepler University Linz, Dept Business Informatics - Federated (Austria)

### **Associate**

9. SVIA/SSIE/SSII Schweiz Verein für Informatik in der Ausbildung - Associate (CH)

The summary of the current membership was presented by IE President, who explained that the association currently has 179 members, from 34 different European countries. Note that this count considers explicitly all the departments who are part of Federated members. Almost all European countries are now represented in the membership.

### 3. IE Activities

The IE President presented some of the association's key activities during 2024 ([Appendix 2](#)). He highlighted ongoing efforts across various domains, emphasizing significant contributions from the Board and the established working groups.

Prof. Jézéquel started by explaining how the above mentioned new members resulted from the work performed by the Board and Office of IE throughout the period, including sending physical letters to some 350 institutions. IE president also encouraged IE members to act as ambassadors of the organization, disseminate our purpose and activities and connect potential new members to IE Office ([administration@informatics-europe.org](mailto:administration@informatics-europe.org)).

Since the last general assembly, the Green ICT group progressed with the foundational work for a white paper, submitted a COST Action proposal, and hosted a workshop during ECSS 2024. The work related with Diversity & Inclusion was mainly focused on successfully closing the EUGAIN COST Action. The working group has also worked on mapping initiatives in university departments, exploring collaborations with like-minded organizations and hosting a workshop during ECSS 2024. In the education research domain, the publication of the Recommendation on Informatics education in school, approved in Nov.'23 by the European Council (EC), is a historic milestone for IE. Ongoing relations with the EC's Head of Digital Education and IE involvement in several expert groups are also worth celebrating, just as it is the successful launch of the Europe's first Summer School on Informatics Education Research (SCHIER). Following the ECSS workshop, part of the working group will focus on a report about Industry-Academia Collaboration in Education. Additionally, Informatics Europe Higher Education Data Portal gained several recognitions over the past 12 months, from an article in the CACM-Journal to being featured as reliable source of data in Stanford HAI's Artificial Intelligence Index report 2024. Another Board subcommittee, supported by member National Informatics Associations representatives, is finalizing the review of the Informatics Research Evaluation Report, to be published in early 2025. Organizing recurring activities such as the Awards, the academic leadership courses or the general organization of ECSS were mainly handled by the office, who also supported several submissions of European project proposals.

The President encouraged members to actively participate in IE initiatives during 2025 and support the association's growth and impact.

### 4. Finances

Following, financial reports and future planning were presented by the Executive Director, Nuria Anguera, they included: Auditor's review of Financial Report for the year 2023, Intermediate Financial Report for 2024, and the Provisional Budget for 2025, including the review proposal of membership fees as of January 2025.

#### ***a. Auditor's review of Financial Report 2023***

The financial audit of the organization finances for the year 2023 was performed during May-June 2024, reviewing the accounting and statements of the financial year January - December 2023. The audit was performed by [Wettsetein & Partner Treuhand AG](#), a company of financial services from Jona, Switzerland.

The auditor's representative, Mirco Eberhard, had several exchanges with Nuria Anguera and Marimar Rodriguez to discuss the details of the report and the general financial management of the association.

The final report of the auditors ([Appendix 3](#)), sent by e-mail to members on 30.09.2023 with the AGA invitation, was positive, stating the finances of the association comply with Swiss Law and the bylaws of IE. The details of

the report and finances were presented at the AGA. IE closed the year 2023 with a positive balance of 21,641.45 EUR which brought the total Equity to 317,847.68 EUR. These results show a significant increase in membership fees when compared with the previous year, resulting from the seventeen new members on boarded in 2023. Also the European Projects, where Informatics Europe is a member and/or Grant Holder Manager, reported higher than budgeted benefits, mainly due to additional budget allocation to EUGAIN by the COST office. Income from other activities and services was lower than in 2022, but aligned with the budget for 2023, as the extraordinary services performed in 2022 were not recurrent. Revenues from academic leadership courses were significantly lower than budgeted, as only one co-hort was organized, compared with the 3 originally planned. However, the net balance of ECSS organization was higher than budgeted, yet not offsetting the related salary costs by the IE office. On the expenses side, main difference vs the previous year and the approved budget are explained by the 4% salary increase offered to IE office staff, to compensate for the inflation of the last years, as well as the negative impact of the weak Euro with respect to the CHF.

Altogether, 2023 results were 45% above the budget, which had been approved during the 2022 AGA (14,530.00 EUR), and come to compensate the losses of the previous couple of years.

Members were asked to vote to approve (or not) the Financial Report 2023 reviewed by auditors. **With no abstentions and no votes against, the document and its content were unanimously approved by all members.**

The next financial audit review is scheduled to early 2025, reviewing the finances from the year 2024. The outcome report will be presented at the next AGA in October 2025 in Rennes, France.

#### ***b. Intermediate Financial Report 2024***

Following, an informal intermediate financial report for 2024 ([Appendix 4](#)) was presented for information and to update members on the current financial status of the association.

To simplify the reporting process, in 2021 Informatics Europe transitioned its finances to EUR, reason why both Income and Expenses were reported in EUR despite the fact that income from membership fees and sponsorship is received in EUR, and most of the expenses are paid in CHF.

The report included the first three quarter of 2024 (1 January to 30 September). IE closed the first three quarter of 2024 with a positive balance of 53,636.00 EUR. The final balance at the end of the year will be different as all upcoming expenses and income for the period October - December 2024 are still to be booked. A positive balance of around 30,000 EUR is expected by year end, provided all outstanding membership fees are paid. This result would be significantly above the budget approved at the AGA 2023 (5,200.00 EUR).

As stated before, the final official consolidated financial report for the full year 2024, dully reviewed by the auditors, will be presented at the next AGA, October 2025 in Rennes, France.

#### ***c. Provisional Budget 2025 and membership fee review***

The last item on the finances was the proposed Provisional Budget for 2025, including the review of membership fees, both requiring voting approval by the General Assembly.

The membership fee review proposal was sent by e-mail to members on 30.09.2020, with the AGA invitation. During the meeting, the Executive Director presented the proposal to increase all membership fees by 5%,

explaining how the current fees were set in 2021 and do not fully consider the inflation that happened in Europe not only since 2020 but also before. **The reviewed membership fees (Appendix 5) were put to vote and approved unanimously, with no abstentions and no votes against them.**

The 2025 budget (Appendix 6) assumes funds to come mainly from the above-mentioned reviewed membership fees. Income from membership fees was estimated considering 5 cancellations of current members, of which 3 have materialized to-date (18 invoices are still outstanding), plus an additional 5% income, which should result from new members joining Informatics Europe in 2025. Total budgeted income also includes a positive balance resulting from the organization of services and activities, such as an online leadership course, a new edition of SCHIER, the Best Dissertation and Minerva Awards and a Department Evaluation service. Activities performed as partner in the Erasmus+ project Inclusion4EU should also positively contribute the financial results.

Most relevant expenses planned for 2025 are payroll (reducing from 2.7 FTE in early 2024 to 2.4 for the whole 2025 year; 1 FTE equals to 40 hours per week) followed by office rental and travel and meetings organization (the Board meets three times per year in-presence). It is important to note that Board members, with exception of a few who do not get travelling support from their universities, fully pay for their travel expenses to attend Board meetings and also pay registration fees to attend ECSS. Travel budget therefore covers expenses of the office staff and a few Board members who need travel support. Expenses related to the European project, the leadership course, and the high-level activities and working groups (other services) are planned to be fully offset by related income. ECSS income and expenses are budgeted to break even, not considering the IE office salary costs related to its organization (accounted under salary expenses).

Considering the estimated income, the fixed expenses and allocated budget for the different activities, a positive balance of around 26,000.00 EUR is planned for 2025.

**After being presented and discussed, the proposed provisional budget for 2025 was approved unanimously by all members attending the AGA, with no abstentions and no votes against them.**

## 5. Board Elections

The terms of three current Board members-at-large will end at the end of 2024:

- **Pekka Orponen**, Aalto University, Finland
- **Manuel Carro**, UPM / IMDEA, Spain
- **Dympna O'Sullivan**, TU Dublin, Ireland

IE is very grateful for their contribution and time dedicated to the development of the organization. They are examples of colleagues who, in addition to their own very busy schedules, volunteer to help the community to become stronger. IE president awarded Prof. Orponen and Prof. Carro a diploma in recognition of their efforts during the mandate; Prof. O'Sullivan was not present during the meeting.

The Board proposed three candidates for election as new Board members-at-large for the term 2025-2027:

- **Simona Motogna**, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania
- **Ana C. R. Paiva**, University of Porto, Portugal
- **Ernestina Menasalvas**, Technical University of Madrid (UPM), Spain

The present candidates were requested to leave the room and IE member representatives were asked to vote. **No members abstained or voted against the three candidates, resulting in a unanimous decision to elect all three proposed candidates as new Board members-at-large for the term 2025-2027.** We welcomed the candidates back to the room and congratulated them for their new roles at IE in the upcoming term.

One current Board members-at-large was then proposed for re-election for another term:

- Přemek Brada, University of West Bohemia, Czech Republic

The candidate was requested to leave the room and IE member representatives were asked to vote. **No members abstained or voted against the candidate, resulting in a unanimous decision to re-elect him as Board member-at-large for another term.** We welcomed the candidate back to the room, congratulated and thanked him for his continuing contributions as Board member-at-large.

## 6. Others

The IE president announced the location of the next ECSS, which will be co-organized by the IRISA Laboratory and hosted at their premises, in Rennes, France, on October 27-29, 2025.

Thereafter, the 2024 AGA moved to its closure. The President thanked all members for their support and participation, and encouraged their contribution on topics of interest to the membership and the community. The 2024 AGA was officially closed and all members were invited to the next AGA to be held in Rennes, October 28, 2025 as part of the ECSS 2025.

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*These minutes were written by Nuria Anguera, Informatics Europe Executive Director, submitted to the approval of the members on November 20, 2024. Final version expected on December 6, 2024.*

## INFORMATICS EUROPE

## LIST OF MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING 2024 AGA

INFORMATICS EUROPE - ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024			
Country	Organisation	Institute or Department	Represented by
Austria	TU Wien	Faculty of Informatics	Allan Hanbury
Belgium	Université catholique de Louvain	CS and Engineering Department	Kim Mens
Bulgaria	Sofia University	Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics	Milen Petrov
Czech Republic	Czech Technical University in Prague	Faculty of Information Technology	Daniela Illnerová
Czech Republic	University of West Bohemia	Department of CS and Engineering	Premek Brada
Estonia	Tallinn University of Technology	School of Information Technologies	Gert Jervan
Estonia	University of Tartu	Institute of Computer Science	Heisi Kurig
Finland	Aalto University	Department of Computer Science	Pekka Orponen
France	FIL - Federation Informatique de Lyon	CITI	Nathalie Revol
		CREATIS	
		LabHC	
		LIP	
France	Université de Rennes 1	Institut de Recherche en Informatique et Systèmes Aléatoires (IRISA)	Jean-Marc Jézéquel
Germany	University of Münster	Department of Computer Science	Jan Vahrenhold
Germany	University of Stuttgart	Faculty of Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and Information Technology	Marco Aiello
Germany	RWTH Aachen University	Department of Computer Science	Peter Rossmanith
Germany	Technische Universität Berlin	Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science	Uwe Nestmann
Germany	Paderborn University	Department of Computer Science	Heike Trautmann
Germany	Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg	Faculty of Computer Science	Andreas Nürnberger
Hungary	University of Szeged	Institute of Informatics	László Nyúl
Hungary	Eötvös Loránd University	Faculty of Informatics	Tamás Kozsik
Italy	University of L'Aquila	Department of Information Engineering, CS and Mathematics	Antinisca di Marco
Italy	University of Bologna	Department of CS and Engineering	Maurizio Gabbrielli

Italy	Roma Informatics	Sapienza Università di Roma, Dep. of Computer, Control, & Mngmnt. Engineering Antonio Ruberti	Enrico Nardelli
		Sapienza Università di Roma, Department of Computer Science	
		University of Rome Tor Vergata, Department of Civil Engineering and Computer Science Engineering	
		University of Rome Tor Vergata, Dipartimento di Matematica	
		Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile, Informatica e delle Tecnologie Aeronautiche	
Italy	Politecnico di Milano	Dipartimento di Elettronica, Informazione e Bioingegneria	Elisabetta di Nitto
Italy	University of Torino	Dipartimento di Informatica	Rosa Meo
Norway	NTNU	Department of Computer Science	Heri Ramampiaro
Poland	Politechnika Poznanska	Faculty of Computing and Telecommunication	Anna Kobusinska
Portugal	University of Porto	Department of Informatics Engineering	Ana Paiva
Romania	University of Bucharest	Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science	Anca Dobrovat
Romania	Babeş-Bolyai University	Faculty of Mathematics and CS	Simona Motogna
Romania	Alexandru Ioan Cuza Univ. of Iasi	Faculty of Computer Science	Lenuta Alboaie
Romania	West University of Timisoara	Faculty of Mathematics and CS	Viorel Negru
Spain	University of Salamanca	Department of CS and Automation	Ana Belen Gil Gonzalez
Spain	Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)	Computer Science School of Engineering	Rafael Pastor Vargas
Spain	SCIE		David López Álvarez
Spain	IMDEA Software Institute		Manuel Carro
Spain	Universidad Rey Juan Carlos	Higher Technical School of Computer Engineering	Rafael Capilla
Spain	University of Malaga	ETSII	Ernesto Pimentel
The Netherlands	Leiden University	Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science	Thomas Bäck
The Netherlands	University of Groningen	Bernoulli Institute for Mathematics, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence	Dimka Karastoyanova
The Netherlands	Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica		Lynda Hardman
UK	King's College London	Department of Informatics	Michael Kolling
UK	CPHC		Silvester Czanner

## Membership growth

- Physical letters sent to
  - ✓ all IE members
  - ✓ Top 100 European academic institutions
  - ✓ Top 3 country institutions
  - ✓ Ca. 30 companies
- Emails sent to ca. 300 additional potential academic members
- Two online intro sessions in Nov.'23
- Currently ca. 20 active leads

## Working Groups - Community efforts

### Green ICT WG

13 members

- Foundation (2023\*) and bootstrapping of the working group
- Setting the foundation for a white paper on Green ICT
- Coordination of the submission of a COST Action (submitted in October 2024)
- Organizing a WS during ECSS 2024
- In progress: Setting up a workshop in Amsterdam for late 2024/early 2025 to discuss a research agenda

### Diversity & Inclusion

23 members

- EUGAIN follow-up COST proposal, not accepted
- Mapping study, and related report, on ongoing diversity initiatives at university departments
- In progress: proposal of collaboration with the organization Academia-net.org



\* Renamed from Sustainability WG to Green ICT and ICT for green WG. To broaden the perspective and to mark a discontinuity with the previous dormant working group.

## Working Groups - Community efforts

### Education Research WG (26 members)

- 1<sup>st</sup> SCHIER (Summer School, Sept.'24):
- I4All coalition: Recommendation on Informatics education in school approved in Nov.'23 by the EC (all Education Ministers of member states).
- EC's Head of Digital Education unit praised IE's efforts at May's IE Board meeting
- IE joins EC's Expert Group for development of guidelines on high-quality Informatics
- ITiCse: Viola Lonati, new IE representative (M. Kölling is Cte. chair)
- Data Literacy: Erasmus+ proposal submitted
- European Research Network: COST proposal (unsuccessful, though), WG @ ACM SIGCSE Virtual
- In Progress: Industry-Academia Collaboration in Education (WS @ ECSS 2024)
- In progress: exploring Data Science Education standards /recommendations for "certification"/"accreditation", together with FEnStat & EADS



## Working Groups - Community efforts

### Data Analysis & reporting WG

21 members

- Article about the Informatics Europe Higher Education Data Portal, prepared by WG members, published in the November 2023 issue of the Communications of the ACM Journal.
- IE featured in Stanford HAI's Artificial Intelligence Index Report 2024
- IE recognized as a key stakeholder in Informatics Higher Education European statistics by the EC, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)
- In progress: joint report with ACM Europe Council on Education about Graduation and Retention of Bachelor's Informatics Students in Europe



## Outcomes from joint efforts with member National Informatics Associations

- Updating the IE recommendations on Informatics research evaluation, in particular in view of the developments in Open Science.
- AI in Education WG @ECSS24
- Planned: Guidelines in the areas of teaching Informatics/SE in the era of AI
- Initial contacts with the EU AI Office



## General Admin. & Communications

- New Accounting & Admin person as of January 2014
- Communications boost (new/updated webpages, flyers, social media)
- Logistics & Coordination: Minerva & BD Award, ALOC, SCHIER, ECSS (no local co-organizer in 2024)
- CV repository – to be closed at YE24
- EUGAIN Grant Holder Manager
- Inclusion4EU Erasmus+ Comm. Partner
- Higher Education Data Portal Yearly Update
- Support EU project proposals (COST Actions, Erasmus+, Horizon 2020)
- Membership management and growth

